

STILLWATER COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES

Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).

REGULAR MEETING - October 29, 2019

Present: Commissioners Mark Crago, Chair, Dennis Shupak, Members;
and Administrative Assistant Pamela Stoddard, County Attorney Nancy Rhode, Road
and Bridge Superintendent Mark Schreiner. Others present Shirlee Keffer,
Marlo Pronovost

Pledge: Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approve Agenda: Commissioner Crago asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

MINUTES Minutes from October 15, 2019, and October 22, 2019 were presented. Commissioner Shupak **MOVED** to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019, and October 22, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Crago announced the current job postings for the County. They are as follows: Administrative Assistant to the Annex, and Criminal and Civil Attorneys. The Courthouse will also be participating in the business trick or treating. The County survey for the proposed Facilities plans that have been presented will be open until Oct 31st at 5:00 P.M. the survey is available on the County website or in print upon request from the Commissioner's office.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1) DES E-911

A) Proposal 2 Consolettes for Dispatch room. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to approve the purchase of the Consolettes. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Discussion; DES manager Carol Arkell explained that the purchase was to replace 2

aging Consolettes that she had inspected and was informed were nearing their end of life. Motion passed unanimously.

2) Road and Bridge

A) Valley Creek Rd. Bid Award. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to accept Great West Engineering's recommendation to award 406 Excavating the bid for the Valley Creek Rd project in the amount of \$110,903.60. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously

B) Spring Creek Rd. Bid Award. Commissioner Hamilton **MOVED** to accept Great West Engineering's recommendation to award 406 Excavating the bid for the Spring Creek Rd project in the amount of \$68,159.11. Commissioner Shupak **SECONDED**. Motion passed unanimously

C) Application for Cattle Guard across unnamed County Rd. County Attorney Nancy Rhode advised the Board that her recommendation would be to table this item at this time. No action was taken.

Public Comments: Shirlee Keffer read a statement she had prepared into the record; I'm in opposition of all three Concept Plans that have been presented by the Facilities Committee.

Stillwater County is rural America at present time. A Billings, Bozeman, Missoula or Great falls we are not. Is the direction of this Board looking to make Stillwater County a competitor to become like these cities?

Currently resident of Absarokee are facing a big hit to the sewer system that is being proposed. Residents of the Columbus area took a hit when the majority voted to form an Ambulance District increasing property taxes. More taxes due tot the school bond. And just recently, the increase property taxes. More taxes due to the school bond. Just recently, the increase for County residents on the service of the Solid waste Stations. Back when the first public meetings were held in 2013-2015, the people of Stillwater wanted to save the Courthouse. I would like to see a concept plan that does just that. Utilize the property that the Courthouse is located on, keep the Fairgrounds at present location, discuss with the City of Columbus about a joint library but not a new building. 2 million dollars for a library for a County population of 10,000 is not acceptable. The cry for a new library-just how many people outside of Columbus make a trip to Columbus for that purpose?

Is it the town of Columbus that is in need of an "Event Center" not the County yes, the Stillwater pavilion isn't the state of the art however it is serviceable? Each outlying community has a meeting place of some type. Stillwater County government needs to live within its means. They can't guarantee that property taxes won't go up if Concept A or Concept B was started.

One of the questions on the survey is about all services under one roof. The answer is no. The four that do are as follows: Treasurer, Clerk & Recorder, DMV, County Commissioners. The remaining services don't need to be in my opinion.

I support smaller government.

Commissioner Crago asked if there were any other comments to be heard. With no further public comments Commissioner Crago thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Hearing no further business, Commissioner Crago adjourned the regular meeting at 9:13a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/
Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman

ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder